

Government Actions to Reduce State Spending

Since December 1, 2014, state spending has been reduced by about \$1 billion and approximately 600 positions have been eliminated. The Walker-Mallott administration aims to reduce spending with the least possible adverse impacts to Alaskans and our economy. The administration is doing due diligence on innovative ways of streamlining government functions in areas such as procurement, travel and information technology. Nonetheless, some impacts to public services are unavoidable.

The following list provides examples of some of the ways spending cuts are being managed:

- Consolidated divisions or eliminated director positions within the Departments of Law, Environmental Conservation and Labor & Workforce Development
- Short-term mandatory furloughs (including the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve for Department of Law employees)
- Reduced administrative support positions across all departments
- Closed District Attorney's office in Barrow
- Reduced scheduled ferry service and laid up boats for extended periods
- Reduced overtime for airport runway staff
- Installed more fuel-efficient engines on the *M/V Columbia* and fuel management systems on all boats to reduce fuel consumption in state ferries
- Eliminated or reduced commercial vehicle enforcement permitting and weigh station services
- Eliminated non-essential, non-self-supporting services on AMHS ferries (bars, gift shops)
- Reduced snow removal, pothole repair and sign replacement, and reduced winter clean-up of sidewalks and bike paths
- Discontinued specialized cold-case unit and transitioned workload to the Alaska Bureau of Investigations
- Closed trooper posts in Talkeetna and Yakutat and reduced Village Public Safety Officer and trooper positions through vacancies
- Discontinued enhanced trooper coverage during Arctic Man snow machine races
- Eliminated paper checks for child support payments
- Reduced state support for seafood and tourism marketing
- Reduced grants for emergency communications systems
- Shifted Barrow job center duties to City of Barrow, donated computers and supplies to City
- Transitioning low-risk offenders to halfway houses and electronic monitoring or granting early parole
- Reduced state support for K-12 education through elimination of "one-time" funding
- Reduced statewide education programs including a "STEM" pilot program, early literacy screening, teacher mentoring, and early learning

- Used federal funds to cover two-thirds of eight management positions in Fish and Game
- Used federal funds to cover five Fish and Game field research projects
- Closed Seward Public Health Center, Fairbanks vital statistics office, and reduced support for three public health nursing grantees
- Froze reimbursement rates to Medicaid providers
- Eliminated AVTEC's nurse training program
- Eliminated programs that support middle- and high-school career readiness, help disabled high school seniors secure employment; and career and technical education
- Reduced state support for adult basic education
- Eliminated five juvenile probation positions and closed Homer probation office, increasing caseloads and travel for remaining staff
- Eliminated state support for Alaska Aerospace Corporation
- Reduced state support for National Guard facilities maintenance
- Cut 16 positions at the McGrath fire suppression area
- Eliminated Wildland Fire Academy program and associated internships
- Discontinued the Alaska Film Tax Credit and eliminated three associated positions
- Reduced number of auditor and tax technician positions at the Department of Revenue
- Eliminated University of Alaska services, including pre-engineering certificate and Masters of Business Administration at UAS
- Reduced support for Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program
- Reduced University facilities maintenance, custodial services, library staff and acquisitions, research and other programs at
- Eliminated deputy commissioner, administrative and communications positions in Commerce
- Cut obesity prevention money to school districts
- Reduced state funding for Ketchikan juvenile detention facility by seeking Medicaid refinancing to repurpose as a residential treatment facility
- Reduced funding for sign language interpreter program